Attachment #1: Proposed Action Treatment Specifications

Treatment Method	Treatment Specifications
Treatment Methods Common to all Units	• Only pinyon and junipers trees shall be targeted for treatment • Trees will be cut so as to cause minimal damage to existing shrubs • Stump height not to exceed 6” • All live limbs shall be removed from stumps • Areas where no treatment will occur shall be identified on maps and with flagging within project units. These may include leave islands, riparian areas, individual trees, pinyon trees under seven feet tall that have Christmas tree characteristics, wildlife travel corridors, cultural and Special Status species areas • Existing vegetation/wildlife study locations will be located and protected so that markers and witness posts are not disturbed
Hand Cutting: Lop / Scatter	• Cut material shall be scattered so as not to exceed 24” height above ground level • Place cut material in ephemeral washes and draws where possible • All cut material shall be bucked so as to not exceed 4’ in length
Mechanical Chipper / Shredder	• Mulch depth shall not exceed 3 inches • Machinery would be utilized when conditions would limit the amount of soil disturbance and compaction from the operation of the machinery (for example: dry well-drained soils, frozen ground, or snow covered ground) • Machinery would not be used on saturated soils or in muddy conditions (rut depth must not exceed 6” in depth). • The machinery would not be operated on slopes of 25% or greater.
Selection of Retention Trees	• Selection of trees to be retained on the site post-treatment will be accomplished by the contractor and approved by the COR using criteria supplied by the BLM. • Retention trees will be of various size classes and of good form and vigor. • Retention trees will be both pinyon and juniper, with pinyon the preferred retention tree over juniper. • Healthy juniper will be preferred to unhealthy pinyon. • Trees with dwarf mistletoe will not be selected for retention. • Trees will be spaced so that crowns do not overlap, except where small groups are retained. • Final criteria on tree spacing and trees-per-acre will be in pre-contract materials and may include variable spacing trials to facilitate future decision making on preferred spacing for woodland and understory health.
Product Utilization	• All pinyon and juniper material greater than 3” in diameter may be removed from the site for product utilization. • All green pinyon greater than 3” in diameter cut prior to October 1 will be removed from the site or chipped and scattered on site to help prevent attracting populations of pinyon *Ips* beetle.
Slash Treatment	• Cut material not removed from the site will either be chipped and scattered (so that chip depth does not exceed 3”) or will be lopped and scattered so that slash height does not exceed 24” above the ground. • Cut material left on site shall not exceed 48” in length. • Cut material may be placed in ephemeral washes to help reduce erosion. • Cut material may be placed on equipment pathways to aid closure and restoration of created corridors. • Pinyon slash left on site shall not exceed 18’ in length and scattered in a sunny location to reduce probability of *Ips* beetle infection • Green pinyon material greater than 3” in diameter will be removed from the site within

	4-6 weeks to reduce probability of *Ips* beetle infection
Transport	• Transport of material for off site product utilization will use COR designate travelways (unconstructed "stump roads") within the project areas and existing roads. • Any travelways created within the project area (that are not part of the BLM road system) will be drained and closed with slash.
Seeding	• Seed will be broadcast prior to treatment in hand thinned areas where deemed necessary. A suitable seedbed must be created. To do this, seed may be applied by hand broadcasting seed and worked in with a chain dragged from an ATV. • In mechanically treated areas, seed may be applied prior to or during treatment activities. • A mix of native shrubs, forbs and grasses shall be seeded if necessary and approved by GSENM botany staff. • Re-seeding may be considered if vegetation cover does not meet the desired thresholds for vegetation cover by year 5 post-treatment (see below)
Survey and Monitoring	• Pre-implementation surveys will be conducted for archaeological, wildlife (general reconnaissance) and vegetation cover. • Treatment monitoring will be accomplished by the COR to insure compliance with contract specifications and to include discovery of sensitive materials (above survey items) not found in pre-treatment surveys. If sensitive materials are discovered, the COR may require the contractor to avoid the site until the appropriate resource specialist can be consulted. • Post-treatment monitoring will be conducted for *Ips* beetle activity and general woodland health. • Post-treatment monitoring will be conducted for noxious weeds for at least the first and second year following conclusion of treatment activities. • Post-treatment monitoring will be conducted for vegetation response for a minimum of 5 years or until thresholds are met (see below). If vegetation response is slow, units will be monitored in years 1, 3 and 5. For more rapid response, units will be monitored annually. • Desired minimum vegetation cover thresholds are: 15% shrub, 10% grass, 5% forb. Maximum cover threshold for exotic vegetation is 5%. If vegetation cover does not meet the desired thresholds for vegetation cover by year 5, additional seeding would be considered.